

Alt, David D. and Donald Hyndman, *Roadside Geology of Oregon*. Mountain Press Publishing Company, Missoula, MT. 1978. (Reviewed by Michael O'Leary)

Now in its sixteenth printing, this authoritative yet non-technical review of Oregon's geology explains how volcanism, plate movement, glaciation, and erosion have shaped the region's various features and directly impacted the course, hydrology, sediment flow and riparian biota throughout key river basins across the state of Oregon. Beginning with nearly 30 pages of background on the fundamentals of geology and Oregon's general history, the book includes different sections that explain how geology has driven key features of the Willamette Basin, including the McKenzie River's relative lack of sediment, the Coast Fork's elevated levels of mercury, the Middle Fork's depth and direction down the Cascades, as well as how the main-stem was impacted by the Missoula Floods of the last ice-age.

Critique

The book takes its title from its novel approach to the material as being organized around the major highway routes of Oregon. This feature, that it is uniquely suited to Oregon as viewed from its major highways, however, is also its most idiosyncratic shortcoming, in that it does not particularly address tributaries or basins that are not adjoined by a major highway. While it's no comprehensive science text, it does make a great travel companion for an educational road-trip through Oregon, and a good start for those interested in learning more about the way geology has shaped our state.

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